Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

and



present

Backyard Chickens 101

With *The Chickeness,*
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Backyard Chickens?
But why?



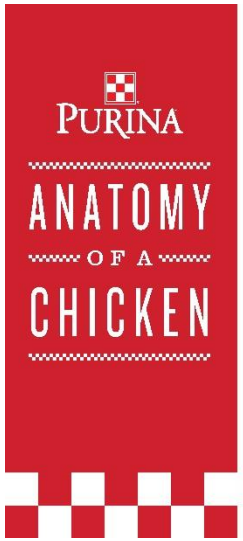


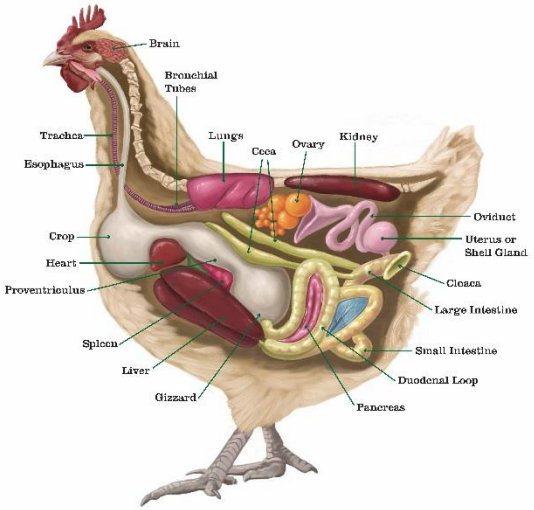

- Eggs and meat
 - Healthier?
 - Connection to holistic food (source locavore)
 - Cheaper?
- Pets
- Pastoral aesthetic
- Trends

Bottom left photo from motherearthnews.com, all others from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

General Chicken Info

- Descended from South Asian red jungle fowl (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) ~8000 years ago
- Terminology
 - Chicken >1 year = Hen or Rooster/Cock
 - Chicken <1 year = Pullet or Cockerel
 - Bantam vs. Standard/Large Fowl
- No rooster necessary!







Bottom photo from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

Which Came First?
Chicken or Egg?

- Through the mail
 - Chicks
 - Adults
 - Hatching eggs
 - Hatcheries or eBay
- Chicken swaps and shows
 - Community events
 - www.backyardchickens.com online forum
- MSPCA
- Yardbirds Backyard Chickens!









All photos from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

Chicken Breeds

- Purpose
 - Eggs/meat, Pets, Conservation/history
- Appearance
- Personality/temperament
- "Broodiness” or cold-hardiness











All photos from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

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General Chicken Breeds








- Layers
- Meat or table birds
- Dual purpose breeds
- Ornamental or exhibition breeds
- Heritage breeds

All photos from mypetchicken.com

Ornamental Chicken Breeds = Muppets!

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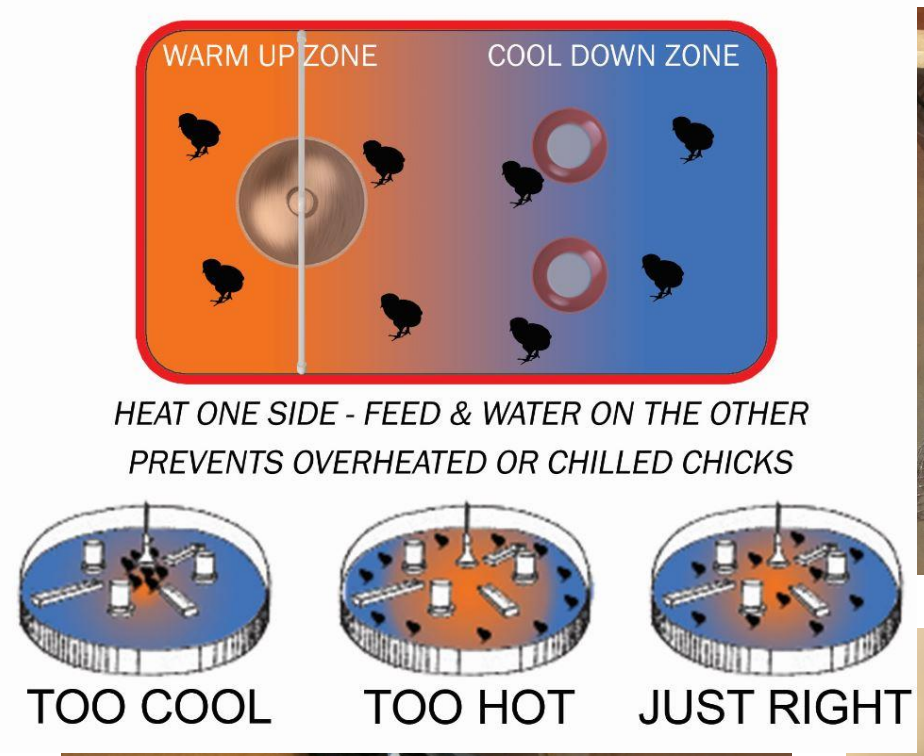




Photos from mypetchicken.com except top left by Tamara Staples and bottom right by Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

Chicken Care – Chicks!

- Temp, temp, temp!
 - 90-95 degrees their first week
 - Lower by 5 degrees each week until ambient
 - Watch their behavior
- Feed and water
 - Marbles in the waterer – show them
 - Starter until ~6wks, starter/grower or grower until they start laying
 - GRIT B4 SNACKS!
 - Medicated feed vs not
 - Put it on a stage!









Chicken Care – Chicks!

- Bedding
 - Newspaper is slippery
 - Towels are ok
 - Shavings are great
- Transition to coop
 - Fully feathered +/- ambient temps
 - Coop 1st, then run
- Issues to watch for
 - Vaccines?
 - “Pasty butt”
 - If hatching yourself, wry neck, etc









Chicken Care - Food

- Poultry feed
 - Starter/Grower vs. Layer (16% protein)
 - Pellet vs. crumble
 - Organic? GMO?
- Treats
 - “scratch” = corn/oats
 - Mealworms, etc.
- Veggies
 - Grass or garden greens
 - Kitchen scraps
- What NOT to eat
 - Anything moldy or rotting





Chicken Care - Health

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- Disease and injuries
 - Parasites – lice and *mites*
 - Injuries
 - Bacterial, fungal, viral diseases
- Be prepared
 - Quarantine setup
 - First aid kit
- To vet or not to vet?

Chicken Care – In Summary

- If you…
 - Provide adequate housing and keep it clean
 - Make sure they have good food and clean water
 - Observe them daily to be sure they are healthy
- You'll have happy chickens and tasty eggs!









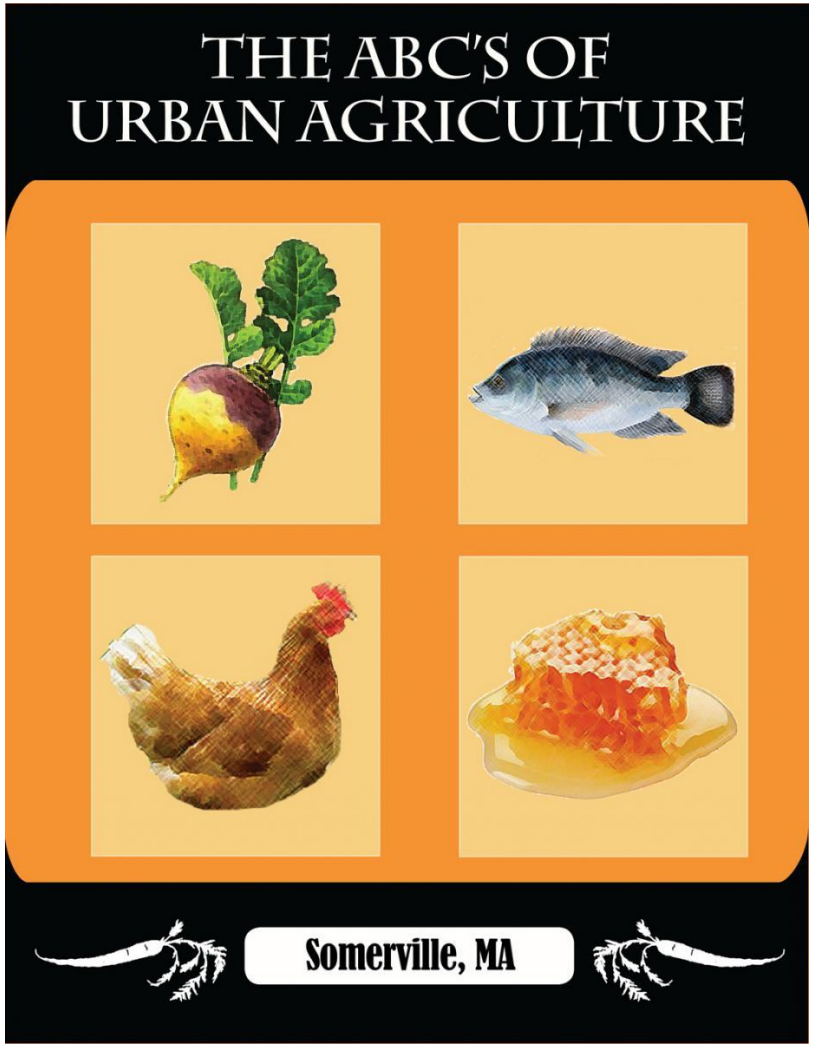
All photos from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

Backyard Chicken Laws

- Zoning – setbacks, design restrictions
- How would YOU define "livestock"?
- Bottom line... Play well with others!



Photo from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens



Chicken Care - Housing

- Coop = an inside ”house" and outside "run”
- Considerations:
 - Predator/pest prevention
 - Number and type of birds
 - Mobility (Chicken tractors)
 - Laws
 - Winter!






All photos from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens and Coops for a Cause

Chicken Care - Housing

- DIY or prefab?
 - Time vs. money vs. quality
 - “Green-ness”

DIY photos from BackyardChickens.com



Mansion (6)

<$200 + salvage



Car Coop (4)

~$500 + labor



Eglu Cube (6-8)

- 5’x13’ run
- ~$1040 + s/h

Info/pic from omlet.us



“Clubhouse” (4)

- 2.25’ x 5.7’
- ~$550 + s/h



“All In One” (9)

- 5’x7’ footprint
- ~$1500 + s/h

Photos from mypetchicken.com

Chicken Care – Housing

YBC all-inclusive set up



- 4x4’ or 4x6’ coop
- 6’x10’ or larger walk-in run
- 4-15 hens
- Predator- and pest-secure
- Weather-secure
- Multiple designs
- Fully installed
- ~$2500+

Coops for a Cause (NH)



Chicken Care - Housing

Current YBC home coop!

- 4’x8’ coop
- 12’x8’ walk-in run
- ~10 hens
- Predator- and pest-secure
- Weather-secure



Photo from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

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Chicken Care - Housing







Photos from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

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Chicken Care - Housing



Photo from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

Chicken Care – Housing in Winter









All photos from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

References

- BackyardChickens.com
- MyPetChicken.com
- YardbirdsBackyardChickens.com
- TheChickeness.blogspot.com






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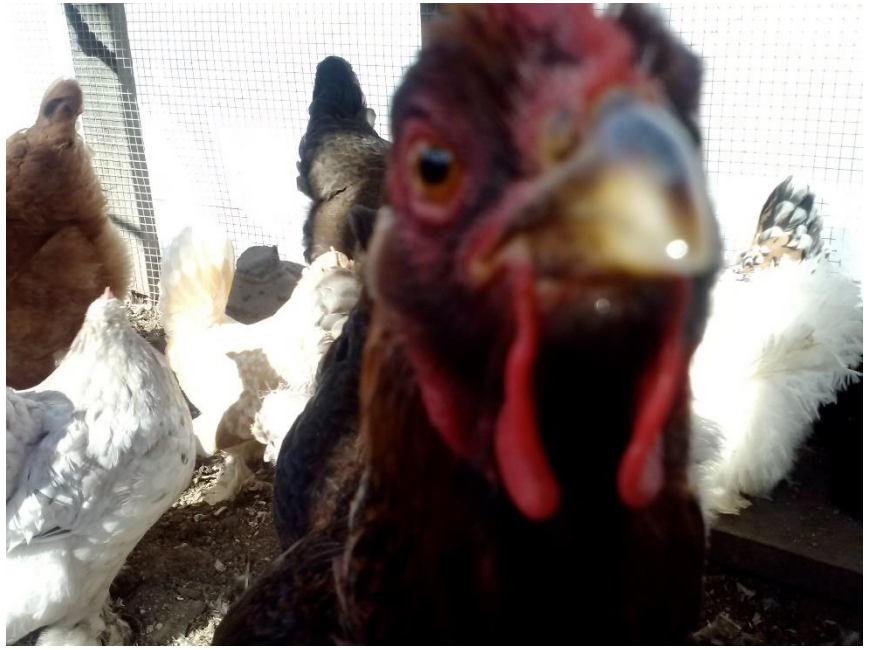
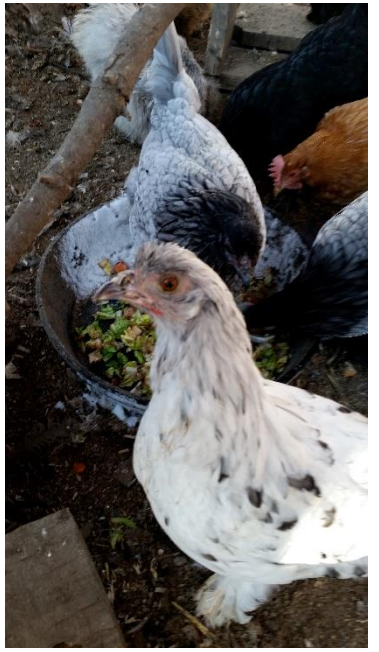
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Thank You! Questions?







All photos from Yardbirds Backyard Chickens